

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**
Saturday, March 9, 2013, 9:30 a.m.
San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Ave. Ste 310, San Diego, CA 92123

Meeting held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chip Dykes; Terry Jensen; Nancy Owen; Ben Dillingham III; John Weaver; Mary Beth Newton; Tom Splitgerber; Laurie Martell.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Justin Singer; Will Rodriguez

OTHERS PRESENT

Simon Marquez, from Cal Vet; Evan Bollinger, from Supervisor Dave Roberts' office; Sterling McHale, from Supervisor Ron Roberts' office

1. Call to Order

Chair Chip Dykes called the VAC meeting to order at 9:30 am.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Public Input (3 minutes)

Those present introduced themselves

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made and seconded to approve the February 9, 2013 meeting minutes.

5. Chairman's Remarks

6. Committee Reports (Limited 5 minutes)

Legislative:

Tom Splitgerber spoke about State Legislative Bills affecting veterans.

- He mentioned the A-704 that could help veterans with trauma training in the military that are looking for a job. With the proper credentials from the military, they can become an EMT-I to EMT-III or get licensed in the state depending on their degree.
- A-585. This is a homeless veteran housing assistance pilot program. This bill would appropriate 5 million over a 3 year period from the General Fund to the Homeless Veterans' Housing Assistance Fund. The county would provide a \$500 monthly stipend to eligible homeless veterans and find low cost housing for them.
- SB 296 Correa Bill. This would appropriate 7 million dollars to increase funding for County Veterans Service Offices.

- Paris project AB-1124 making this pilot outreach program permanent throughout the state. Identifying veterans receiving public assistance and trying to find if they are eligible for federal benefits.
- Sterling McHale spoke about (HCD) Housing Community Development's 5-year operations plan proposed addition. A one year VASH grant of \$96,000. This is to help eligible homeless veterans receiving VA services with the initial security deposit assistance for housing.
- Simon Marquez added Mayor Bob Filner appointed Bill Rider will be his Veterans Affairs Representative in his office.

One VA

Terry Jensen discussed a couple of things from the last One VA meeting:

- VA Outpatient Clinic in Mission Valley is looking move probably by 2015.
- Juan Vargas is looking to create a veterans council for his congressional district and is looking for volunteers that live in the south bay who want to participate. Contact his office in Chula Vista for more information.
- Plan for the new trolley extension going up to UTC, there is an option for a stop at the VA Hospital it has very strong support. Sterling McHale added is in the budget to incorporate this as long as Sequestration does not affect it.

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

- Nancy Owen wanted to remind about the Chula Vista Veterans Home Annual Golf Classic on May 2, 1013 at Eastlake Country Club Golf. Flyers are available on the website.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

Terry Jensen mentioned there will be a photo session in the next March UVC meeting.

Veterans Day Parade

John Weaver provided information needed on the parade to the first lady of San Diego and he is waiting for a response.

County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)

Right now there are 7 RSVP volunteers. Pam Smith is going to allow 4 of them to go and get accreditation at the NACVSO training conference in Reno happening in June 2013.

7 Unfinished Business

Veteran Hiring Policy: Final revisions were done to the letter to reflect current information. Chip Dykes will move forward and formulate a simple survey to attach to it since a copy of the original survey was not found. It should be finalized and sent out by May. Chip asked for members to follow up with the cities in their district for a response.

Community Reports

Chip Dykes asked for an update on the Aspire Center. Lori Martell added she spoke with Debbie Dominick, Aspire Center Director, and said there are delays are due to some permits. She will follow up and will update on next meeting.

Nancy spoke about the Navy Nurse Association. They have quarterly lunches. Each quarter the association donates money or other items to an agency that helps veterans.

Chip advised the Oceanside airport will have a ceremony to rename it to The Bob Maxwell Memorial Airport.

8 New Business
None

9 Closing Remarks
Next meeting will be April 13, 9:30 am at Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

10 Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.